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the tariff. He strongly objected also to the proposed assessment on stock, and further contended generally that the revenue proposed to be raised was beyond the requirements of the Colony, and more than it could bear. The AUDITOR-GENERAL defended the proposed tariff, after which the debate was adjourned till Wednesday next, on the motion of Mr. DANIEL COOPER.

The House broke up at five minutes to seven o'clock.

APART from the general debate on the GOVERNOR'S minute, which we shall hereafter notice, the proposition moved by the SOLICITOR-GENERAL demands a passing remark. It was quite natural for the leader of the opposition to meet the proposal with suspicion. The effect of its adoption if of any value at all, would be to withdraw the discussion from public observation, and to dispose of this, the great question of every session, by the delegates of a representation. The arguments for its adoption were certainly of some weight, and a conversational discussion would admit of, compromises and concessions which the pride of public men will rarely allow them to offer in public; but it would also facilitate corruption. We do not believe that the plan was intended as a snare. The result anticipated by Mr. DONALDSON would not have been—scarcely followed—the recommendation of a Select Committee might have been supported only by a bare majority, and the members resuming their seats would be at liberty, all but the majority, to give their votes against the adoption of the report. A much more powerful motive was the desire to avoid that explosion of the Government measure, to which they are apparently doomed, by the opposition. Gentlemen in office wish to glide smoothly over the transition state, that when the Legislature shall attain the power implied in responsible government it may be unconscious of any great acquisition. The House is like an heir apparent—when the reigning monarch is in the article of death—all eyes turn from the expiring—to the coming man—from the descending to the rising luminary.

The inevitable revolution will make it necessary that the Government should possess the confidence of the assembly. A few months hence, and the construction of a Cabinet will be one of the most important and interesting occupations of the majority, and the existing officers are not unwilling to suffer the expectations of the House to be allayed by an immediate partition of power.

The Select Committee proposed by the SOLICITOR-GENERAL reminds us of the expedients by which the STUARTS attempted to commit the leaders of opposition to the measures of the Crown by inviting them to Councils framed upon principles unknown to the Constitution, and which made the popular representatives parties to measures of Government which they could neither initiate or control. The present Legislative Council really differs but little from the original Legislature of the colony, except that a part of the members are elected.

The late GOVERNOR-GENERAL followed the feeling of the House, and rarely initiated a measure. Whatever resolution was carried governed his proceedings. There were exceptions—but those exceptions were remarkably few. From this circumstance the members of the House acquired an idea of authority which it would be difficult to abate. Under the impression that the policy of the country was determined by the Council, numerous gentlemen have been appointed, and committees pursued, to enable the members to legislate for the colony. All these arrangements are superadded in the estimation of many members of the House by the bringing in of definite schemes, under the auspices of the new GOVERNOR-GENERAL. That he has not exceeded his legal functions as they were interpreted when first commissioned, we have no doubt whatever. In times long past the policy of the country in all its details, was framed by the GOVERNOR. The financial arrangements which those details required were proposed by himself. The Council of that day could not introduce a Bill. It was considered a great concession when this barrier was removed, but the plan of Government remains substantially the same. The present GOVERNOR-GENERAL has but returned to the position which his predecessors concealed (or abandoned), and has provided for the country a scheme of policy comprehending almost everything which the House has been lately permitted to originate.

The recommendation of the SOLICITOR-GENERAL is intended to smooth the difficulties created by this revived method of government—the House and the Executive meet as strangers—they have had no opportunity to exchange their thoughts; their ideas clash; they leave each system warmed into life under different skies; there is every probability that this rivalry will lead to misunderstanding, and terminate in total separation. The plan of the SOLICITOR-GENERAL is to call a parley—to get the chiefs on either side into a friendly conference to soothe the irritation and soften the collision, that the measures which have so far exceeded the capacity of the House may be frequently reduced to practicable dimensions.

A great mistake has been somewhere committed in attempting to do too much by a most imperfect instrumentality. The public may be compared to a demijohn—a bottle of large capacity, but slender neck. If the liquor is poured down in one sheet, nothing can save it. Government has forgotten the funnel, or does not possess one, and a strong suspicion is abroad that what of precaution will occasion the loss of many of those numerous measures projected by the Executive.

The legislature finds itself entangled in a labyrinth of measures, all connected together and scarcely capable of an isolated scrutiny. A committee on the finance must go through the wide range of income and appropriation—must assume a certain disposal of measures which are not yet adopted, or provide a revenue which may not be wanted. No committee, however impartially chosen, could venture to assume that one or other would be finally sanctioned by the House. This appears to be the great difficulty of the sessions, and we see no course clear but that the Government should provide from the existing revenue for the expenditure already virtually sanctioned by the House, and that a new plans involving a continual outline should be separately considered, and their operation postponed until the new Legislature shall provide the means of making them effective.

Under a responsible government the Cabinet will perform the task of framing a policy, which cannot be devised by a Select Committee, having no responsibility and no common opinions, and whose members are bound to support

STATISTICS OF NEW SOUTH WALES FOR THE YEAR 1854.			
The Annual Book of Statistics, compiled in the office of the Colonial Secretary, and laid upon the table of the Legislative Council, has just made its appearance for the year 1854. As regards its table of contents, it is precisely the same as the volume for the previous year. We think this stagnation in a department of facts so intimately connected with our social expansion and the progressive development of our resources, is to be regretted. Every year might surely suggest some improvement, or some addition. Certain classes of information are entirely wanting, although the means of supplying them are close at hand. For example, the number of our churches and chapels, of our ministers of religion, and the average attendants on public worship, with other facts collected annually for transmission to the Secretary of State in what is known as the Blue Book, would considerably enhance the utility and interest of the tables laid before the colonial public.			
No. I.—POPULATION.			
We propose, first, to compare the population of 1854 with that of the previous year, and then to trace our progress in this particular since the last census.			
The total population of New South Wales was—			
On 31st December, 1853	231,288		
On 31st December, 1854	231,316		
Increase, being 8 7 per cent.	20,027		
The number and increase of the respective sexes were—			
Males.	Females.	Total.	
1853	131,268	99,930	
1854	144,121	107,194	
Increase	12,753	7,274	
Ditto per cent.	9·7	7·3	
In the year 1853 the centesimal increase of females was about one per cent. above that of the other sex; last year the increase was about two and a half per cent. in favour of the males. This alteration was caused by the greater number of male immigrants in proportion to that of female. The net addition to the population from this source, being the surplus of arrivals over departures, was—			
Male	1853.	1854.	
Female	10,499	10,430	
Excess of male	7,851	4,439	
Excess of male	2,648	5·97	
The excess of 1854 being above that of 1853 by more than two to one.			
The proportions of the respective sexes to each ten thousand of the population were—			
Males.	Females.	Total.	
1853	5,884	4,316	10,000
1854	5,735	4,265	10,000
Increase	51		
Decrease	51		
The numbers added to our population last year by the excess of immigration over emigration and of births over deaths, were as follows:—			
Immigrants	27,212		
Deduct Departures	12,351		
Net increase by immigration	14,873		
Births	9,663		
Deduct deaths	4,511		
Net increase by births	5,152		
Total net increase as above	20,027		
We have now to trace the progress of the population since the last census, which was taken on the 1st March, 1851.			
Males.	Females.	Total.	
1st March, 1851	106,229	81,014	187,243
31st December, 1851	113,032	84,126	197,158
" " " "	116,487	89,687	206,254
1853	131,268	99,920	231,288
1854	144,121	107,194	251,316
The numerical increase of the respective sexes was—			
Males.	Females.	Total.	
1851	6,803	5,122	9,925
1852	6,431	5,312	11,061
1853	12,681	10,553	23,235
1854	12,753	7,274	20,027
The centesimal increase upon their own respective numbers was—			
Males.	Females.	Total.	
1851	5·0	3·9	4·5
1852	6·0	6·5	6·3
1853	10·7	11·6	11·2
1854	9·7	7·3	8·5
The total increase during the four years and ten months which have elapsed since the census was as under :—			
Male	37,892	32·7	
Female	26,180	32·3	
Total Increase	64,072	34·2	
So that during this period the population has increased full one-third ; and the proportional increase of the			

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to the lease of the premises. Particulars of such at time of

